

crucifix on All Souls<sup>3</sup> Day at the very hour when the last member of the family departed this life ; and some people, just as in Tonquin, refrained from sweeping the house that day lest they should thereby disturb the ghostly visitors.<sup>1</sup>

Feast of In Bruges, Dinant, and other towns of Belgium holy AH Souls    candles burn all night in the houses on the Eve of All

*mBelg mm.    ^ ^ ^    ^ ^ ^    ^ ^ midnJ glltj Qr even  
 tfll morning.*

People, too, often set lighted candles on the graves. At Scherpenheuvel the houses are illuminated, and the people walk in procession carrying lighted candles in their hands. A very common custom in Belgium is to eat "soul-cakes"<sup>2</sup> or "soul-bread" on the eve or the day of All Souls. The eating of them is believed to benefit the dead in some way. Perhaps originally, as among the Esquimaux of Alaska to this day,<sup>2</sup> the ghosts were thought to enter into the bodies of their relatives and so to share the victuals which the survivors consumed. Similarly at festivals in honour of the dead in Northern India it is customary to feed Brahmins, and the food which these holy men partake of is believed to pass to the deceased and to refresh their languid spirits.<sup>4</sup> The same idea of eating and drinking by proxy may perhaps partly explain many other funeral feasts. Be that as it may, at Dixmude and elsewhere in Belgium they say that you deliver a soul from Purgatory for every cake you eat. At Antwerp they give a local colour to the soul-cakes by baking them with plenty of saffron, the deep yellow tinge being suggestive of the flames of Purgatory. People in Antwerp at the same season are careful not to slam

doors or windows  
for fear of hurting the ghosts.<sup>4</sup>  
Feast of In Lechrain, a district of  
Southern Bavaria which  
Lech?^n.<sup>in</sup> extends along the valley of the  
Lech from its source to  
near the point where the river flows into the  
Danube, the  
two festivals of All Saints and All  
Souls<sub>s</sub> on the first

<sup>1</sup> J. L. M. Nogues, *Les mœurs* 125.  
*d'antr&fois en Saintonge et en Annis* 2 <sup>2</sup> **l**ove <sup>D</sup> eo  
(Saintes, 1891), p. 76. As to the **l** **r** **l** **-n**  
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observance of All Souls' Day in other <sup>1</sup> Crooke, *1 he Natives  
of Nor-*

parts of France see A. Meyrac, *Traditionen Indien* (London)  
\*9°7), P. 219.

*tionS) coutumes, Ugendes et conies des* <sup>4</sup> Reinsberg-  
Diiringsfeld, *Caltin drier*  
*Ardennes* (Charleville, 1890), pp. 22- *Beige* (Brussels,  
1861-1862), ii. 236-  
24; Ch. Beauquier, *Les mois en 240; id.,*  
*Dasfestliche Jahr* (Leipsic,  
*Franche-Comté* (Paris, 1900), pp. 123- 1863), pp. 229 sq.